

TESTIMONY OF BONNIE STEWART VICE PRESIDENT AND COUNSEL CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

Good Morning, my name is Bonnie Stewart. I am vice president and counsel of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 companies in the state ranging from large industrial corporations to small businesses with one or two employees. The vast majority of our members, about 90 percent, have fewer than 50 employees.

Energy costs in Connecticut are among the highest in the United States. Our state's economy will improve if energy policies are stable and consistent and policymakers keep the focus on reducing costs and improving reliability. SB-1157 An Act Concerning The Restoration Of The Energy Conservation And Load Management Fund will help move Connecticut toward those goals. The measure directs that repayment of economic recovery revenue bonds financed with the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund (Fund) monies be structured to decrease the amount of monies taken from the Fund.

CBIA <u>supports</u> **SB-1157** and urges that you do, also.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts about this bill with you.